

November 29, 1999

Donna Shalala, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

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Dear Secretary Shalala:

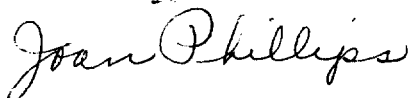
I am writing to express my desire for strong labeling requirements for irradiated foods. I am asking the **Food and Drug Administration** to guarantee my right to know if the food I eat has been treated with radiation.

Irradiation of food causes chemical and nutritional changes. Scientists are not sure how our natural bodies will react long term to foods that have been rendered unnatural by exposure to radioactive isotopes. We need **clear, honest, permanent food labeling, prominently displayed** on each item or package that contains food altered by radiation. Accurate information on labels can help us make better health choices.

Another important concern is that the process will contaminate the environments where the irradiation plants are located. Exposure to radiation in these places will have negative health effects on the communities and on the workers in the plants.

Please defend the consumer's right to know in this important decision-making process.

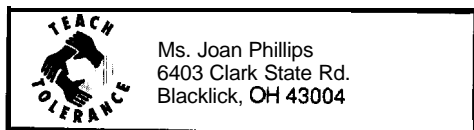
Sincerely,



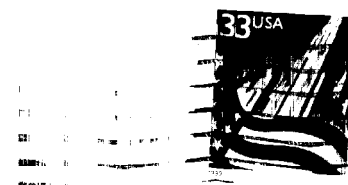
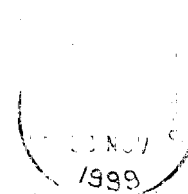
Joan Phillips

98N-1038

C4828



Ms. Joan Phillips  
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Donna Shalala Sec.  
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